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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,088	01/30/2002	Amarender Kethireddy	SLA 1164	2450

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EXAMINER

BAYERL, RAYMOND J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/066,088

Applicant(s)

KETHIREDDY, AMARENDER

Examiner

Raymond J. Bayerl

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____



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1. Appellant's brief on appeal, filed 7 March 2005, has been considered, and found persuasive, as to the inapplicability of the rejections under 35 USC 102, 103 that were based upon Goiffon et al. (US #6,453,312 B1) alone, and in combination with Shanahan et al. (US #6,732,090 B2). However, further review indicates the continued applicability of 35 USC 103 in rejecting the claims, and prosecution is therefore REOPENED, with the rejection as follows below.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King ("King"; US #6,587,122 B1), Cochran ("Cochran"; US #6,345,273 B1) and Black et al. ("Black"; US #6,285,998 B1).

The "method for providing search inquiry syntax help" in independent claim 1 is one in which "automatically supplying search syntax help" is responsive "to the search request". A similar style of SYNTAX HELP provision occurs in King, where displaying instruction syntax help information to a user takes place, as instructions are entered into an editor or other tool (Abstract; see also figs 4, 5; col 9, line 56 – col 10, line 6).

While it is true that the **explicit** embodiment for the King HELP is that of entering programming instructions such as ladder logic, the Cochran SEARCH SYSTEM specifically allows for a large number of search terms (Abstract) to be scanned, in pop-up assistance windows like those that appear in figs 4 – 8, 10 – 11, 13. Search Terms are displayed when the pointing device passes over a Category Name 22 (col 4, line 63 – col 5, line 8).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to supply "help" in the style of King's entry-responsive pop-up generator in the role of search assistance as seen in the Cochran pop-ups, because this allows a sequence of search entry (Cochran) to be coupled to relevant additional input items responsive to the input (King). The motivation lies at least in Cochran, where an ongoing search query as involves an entry field would be an advantageous extension to the identically-disclosed search algorithm that narrows via the popped-up terms.

The King/Cochran entry help would only provide search terms to the ongoing search effort, and not "search syntax characters supported by the search engine" as applicant has come to define such "characters" (see, for example, the discussion in the appeal brief). This would be various "characters" that operate with the terms, as in connection and modification.

However, it was known in the art to use assistance interfaces to supply "search syntax characters", as is seen in Black's user interface and query method by which operators may be supplied to a query that is under development (Abstract). As is seen in Black's fig 7, an Operator dialogue is popped into the screen, by which "search syntax characters" may then be specified.

It would thus have been further obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art to supply "search syntax characters" as per Black to the ongoing development of a search term via pop-up screen regions that is suggested by King and Cochran, because the Operators that are represented by such "characters" are a part of a complete query,

as Black illustrates. In the search-specification of Cochran, these would form a useful adjunct to a more comprehensive search that permits the use of such components.

Claim 2's "edit box" resembles the initial entry region of King (fig 4), which in the extension to Cochran would serve the purpose of "formulating a search request". Then, in this context, "displaying a popup window" occurs in King, as it analogously does in the ongoing process of Cochran, and in view of Black, this would obviously provide "search syntax help", as in the selection of a Black Operator.

As in claims 3, 19, the Black Operator selection displays "search syntax characters" that are both "connectors and operators". When a user is proceeding in any arrangement where popped-up help shows suggested inputs, "search syntax character definitions" (claims 4, 20) are provided, as in the case of Black, where the items such as \leq , \equiv define the corresponding Operator items to be included.

As per providing "a list of frequently-used search syntax characters" as the "help" (claims 5, 21), please note that lists of search terms are generated for the Cochran user, and these in the extension to Black would be "syntax characters", when provided in a similar "list". In Cochran, the "list" is of "every supported" item that can be added, as in claims 6, 22.

When working with the ongoing Black entry procedure, "examples in which the search syntax characters are used" (claims 7, 23) are shown, these "forming a search request with at least one search term and a first search syntax character" (claims 8, 24). In the depiction of an "example" that occurs in Black, "a plurality of search syntax characters" are used to "modify search terms" (claims 9, 25), since a "plurality" are

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available. This further creates “an example in which the first search term is linked to the second search term using the first search syntax character” (claims 10, 26). Please note that Field Name in Black’s fig 10 s joined by an Operator to a Value. Listing out these “characters” then becomes an option in Cochran’s modification of King, to show what can be done at a given point when an Operator is needed in a query composition.

After the entry is completed in King, “closing” the “popup window” (claims 11, 27) will occur, since the display of the “popup window” of King is conditional to text being entered. This would be “search syntax help” in the Black/Cochran modification. In the entry region of King when applied to Cochran, “editing the search request” (as by providing additional entry in King) will result in “automatically supplying search syntax help” (claims 12, 28) as per Black. Conversely, when the King user decides upon “changing the focus” of the input (claims 13, 29), a distinct possibility is that no help will be defined, and thus, “closing” the “popup window” will occur.

As per “providing a user selectable syntax help enablement option” (claim 14), such a step is part of “providing” an interface like King, Cochran or Black, and “in response enabling the syntax help option” in this way, a result of “supplying search syntax help” is put in place in the interface.

A particular feature of Cochran; the use of a ...more button (fig 5), applies to claim 15’s “user selectable search syntax help configuration options”. This further reads upon the “configuration menu with a user selectable check box” to direct “popup window” display in claim 30. In Cochran, “frequently-used search syntax characters” (claims 16, 31) will appear as default, when such “characters” are supplied as per Black,

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and the potential exists to display "every supported search syntax character" in a Cochran/Black "list" (claims 17, 32). Then, when the notion of Black's "example of how search syntax characters are used" is added as modification (since Black shows such examples in the query development interface), claim 33's "default" to such a screen is suggested.

Independent claim 18's "selectable focus edit box", as noted above, reads upon the input area of King. Extending to Cochran, this is "for inputting a search request", and will result in a "popup window" with the "search syntax help" that is then suggested by Black. The "popup window" then becomes "responsive to the search request", as in claim 34.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond J. Bayerl whose telephone number is (571) 272-4045. The examiner can normally be reached on M - Th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM ET.

5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached on (571) 272-4048. All patent application related correspondence transmitted by FAX **must be directed** to the central FAX number (703) 872-9306.

6. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173

29 April 2005